# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ATOMIC ENERGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1056
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Radioactive Waste Disposal
Noor Smt. Mausam

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

(a)whether the Government has received report citing radioactive slurry being stored in the open causing health hazards to people residing in adjacent areas of uranium mines operated by Uranium Corporation of India Limited in Jamshedpur and if so, the details thereof;

(b)whether the Government has conducted any formal meeting with representatives of nearby villages and heard their grievances; and

(c)if so, the details of action taken thereon?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) under Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in the uranium mining & milling operations at Jharkhand.

No report on health hazards to people on account of uranium tailings management has been received by the Government. However, a news item was published in Hindustan Times, Ranchi edition (Dt. 23-02-2014) alleging adverse effects of radiation emanating from mining activities on environment and population in Jaduguda, East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand had taken Suo-moto cognizance of this news item in W.P. (PIL) No. 1188 of 2014.

Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 20.01.2016 directed to constitute an expert committee to examine the effects of radiation in the vicinity of Jaduguda mines. The Committee constituted accordingly, submitted a detailed report to the Hon'ble High Court on 04.06.2016. The committee, based on the surveillance data around the area, concluded that as per international guidelines, no health effects are discernible at such exposure levels. The committee also proposed that a regular system of interaction and communication, including awareness programme with the population in and around Jaduguda and the society in general, needs to be developed.

On the basis of the Report of the Expert Committee, Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand vide their order No. 10 dated 13.07.2016 has disposed the Writ Petition (PIL) No.1188 of 2014 and directed that the recommendations of the "Expert Committee' be complied with by Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jharkhand. Uranium Corporation of India Limited has taken all necessary action to comply with the recommendations made by the Expert Committee.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c)Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. has conducted several public awareness and welfare activities in the nearby villages in view of the recommendations of the Expert committee report which includes meeting with representatives of the surrounding villagers regarding their grievances (if any) and to disseminate the facts and myths of uranium mining. The details of camps conducted by UCIL are as follows:

â€¢Awareness camps conducted in nearby schools at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Surda, Sidhu Kanhu School, Kedo, Khukradih High School, Higher Secondary School, Dudra, Middle School, Gohla during the month of September to December, 2016.

â€¢Awareness camp conducted at Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Badiya on the 23rd December, 2016.

â€¢Banners for medical camps and Wall painting at Jaduguda for dissemination of
information in the public domain has been taken up and is in progress.

â€¢Workshop for Media Professionals on Activities of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd was held on 27th January, 2017.

â€¢43 Nos. of Medical camps have been conducted starting September,2016 till date & a total of 2032 nos. of patients have been examined so far.

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